

Story 2031 (1997 Tape 2)

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Location: Yeşilova village,
Acıpayam kaza,
Denizli Province

Date: May 22, 1997

The Instantaneous Travels¹ of Saint Cemil Emmi²

One day Cemil Emmi was walking from his home in Kayseri to the small village of Kavas, several kilometers away from that city. When a dolmuş³ came along going in that same direction, Cemil Emmi signaled for it to stop. He waved several times to the driver, but the driver pretended not to see him. The driver actually did see Cemil Emmi waving to him, but observing the saint's shabby clothes, the driver thought that he would not have enough

¹A saint's appearance in two widely separated places at the same time is a common motif of Turkish tales.

²A saint of Kayseri. See also ATON tales numbered 2030 and 2032. In Christianity sainthood is usually bestowed by a religious leader (such as a pope) or by a religious council. In Islam sainthood is designated by the opinion of common people who have observed a given person's behavior, that person's benevolence, and that person's power to do things beyond the ability of others. Miracles may be performed by Muslim saints.

³A large taxicab which can hold eight to ten passengers. It travels between two designated points, with stops requested anywhere along that route, but it does not deliver each passenger to his/her specific address. It does not start from either terminal until it is fully loaded. The Turkish word dolmuş means full. Dolmuş fare is very inexpensive.

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money to pay the dolmuş fare.

When that vehicle arrived in Kavas and the remaining passengers were unloaded, they all saw that Cemil Emmi had arrived in that village ahead of them. They were all amazed that he had been able to reach Kavas before the dolmuş had.

A similar thing happened a little later at the time of year when many Muslims make pilgrimages to Mecca. Several of those pilgrims reported later that they had seen Cemil Emmi in the holy city. But at the very time he was seen in Mecca, several residents of Kayseri took oaths that they had seen him at his favorite coffeehouse in their city.⁴

⁴There are in ATON several similar accounts about other saints. See, for example, Tale No. 1625.